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news release

SENATOR GARY HART AT UD MARCH 3

DAYTON, Ohio, February 28, 1980 --- "The meaning of Three Mile Island" will be discussed by Gary Hart when he visits the UD campus March 3 at 8 p.m. in the Kennedy Union Ballroom as part of the Distinguished Speakers Series. As chairman of the Senate subcommittee which oversees the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, the senator from Colorado has always maintained a view that progress must not be made at the expense of the environment.

Addressing the Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs in 1977, Hart said, "We have entered an era of relative resource scarcity which forces us to review many of our assumptions about the patterns of development and growth in this nation. Our seemingly limitless frontiers have fostered an American culture which sanctions indulgence and waste...We cannot justify the careless consumption which has become the hallmark of our society."

Hart not only favors decreased ecological waste, but governmental as well. His idea for budget revision is to reduce the speed at which government spending now grows from the rate of inflation plus two per cent to the rate of inflation plus 0.5 per cent. This would require a severe cutback in federally-funded programs, but Hart has not detailed which programs would be trimmed.

Since his election to the Senate in 1974, Hart has also served on the Armed Services Committee and the Select Committee on Intelligence. Creating realistic expectations of government and increasing its effectiveness and accountability are what Hart sees as challenges before the American public. He has introduced several pieces of legislation to that end, including a "sunset" bill which requires government agencies to justify

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their existence or risk being phased out.

He also sponsored a bill to limit the number of subcommittee chairmanships senators may hold, worked to establish more competition in the economy's private sector, proposed a system of "pollution charges" designed to use financial incentives to reduce environmental pollution, and promoted the judicial review of the Veterans Administration.

Hart made an almost prophetic remark in a Newsweek interview in 1973 which sets the tone for the move into the '80s: "Times of national stress can be instructive if for no other reason than that they cause us to consider where we started from and how we got here."